

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL****EDUCATION COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2002 AT 1000 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Tommy Farrell, Brian McNeil, Brian Reeves, Lilian MacLean, Drew McIntyre, David Macrae, Iain Linton, Alex Walsh, John Knapp, Finlay MacLean, Eric Jackson, George Smith, Provost Jimmy Boyd and Councillors Eric Ross and Elaine Dinwoodie; Teacher Representative Iain Harvey and Parent Representative Alasdair MacQueen.

**ATTENDING:** David Montgomery, Chief Executive; John Mulgrew, Director of Educational and Social Services; David Mitchell, Head of Administrative and Legal Services; Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support; Graham Short, Head of Schools; Robin Gourlay, Contracts Manager; Alex McPhee, Financial Services Manager; Euan Couperwhite, Finance Manager; Caroline Gordon, Public Relations Officer; Kenneth McKinlay, Principal Quality Development; Derek Mathieson, Quality Development; Jim McCaffrey, Quality Development; Anne Marie Carr, Administrative Officer and Lynn Chapman, Trainee Administrative Officer.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Stephanie Young, Willie Coffey, John Weir, Robert McDill and Julie Faulds; Church Representatives: John Paterson, John McHugh and Matthew Sullivan.

**CHAIR:** Councillor Tommy Farrell, Chair.

**CHAIR'S REMARKS****(i) Tale 'O' Tam**

The Chair congratulated pupils from St John's Primary School and Kirkstyle Primary School who took part in the Tale 'O' Tam staged at the Magnum Theatre and the Palace Theatre last weekend. The performance had been, thanks to Scottish Opera, an outstanding success and had been a credit to the young people involved.

**(ii) New Opportunities Fund**

It was noted that two of East Ayrshire's schools had received funding through the New Opportunities Fund recently - Mount Carmel Primary School received £10,343 to finance and extend homework clubs and Shortlees Primary School had been awarded £12,214 for summer schools.

**(iii) Burns Celebrations**

The Chair congratulated all of the schools and nurseries in East Ayrshire who had maintained the strong Burns tradition by holding various events to celebrate the poet's birthday recently.

**(iv) Standard of Headship**

The Chair congratulated Elizabeth Hardie, Galston Primary School; Catriona Gray, Mount Carmel Primary School; Christine Maguire, Grange Academy and Andrew

Rennie, Loudoun Academy who had been presented with their Standard of Headship by the First Minister, Jack McConnell on 1 December 2001.

**(v) “Killie’s” Writer of the Year Competition**

The Chair expressed delight in presenting Crossroads Primary School, P7 pupil, Nicola Drummond with her prize of £300 recently for overall winner in Kilmarnock Football Club’s “Killie’s” Writer of the Year Competition. Nicola’s poem had centred around the theme of 11 September and the judges had been so impressed that they were sending a copy to the White House.

**(vi) Readathon**

It was noted that Kilmarnock Academy S1 pupils had raised £1,023 in a Readathon, and that the pupil council had decided that the money would be donated to a children’s hospice at Prestwick.

**(vii) Anti-Bullying Network - Speak Out Day**

It was noted that East Ayrshire Pupils Ahakera Galbraith and Brian Ross from St Matthew’s Primary School and Evelyn McCaffrey and Daniel McLaren from St Joseph’s Academy had been a credit to their schools and authority recently when they attended the Speak Out Day organised by the anti-bullying network to highlight the importance of dealing with bullying that takes place in all areas of life, not just school.

**(viii) The Dairy Project**

It was noted that the Dairy Project in Newmilns had successfully bid for funding through the Scottish Executive Local Capital Grants Scheme receiving £80,000. The total costs of the new project was anticipated to be around £160,000 to establish a centre for young people in the area. The additional funding required was presently being pursued by the management group.

**BUDGETARY PROGRESS REPORT - EDUCATION TO 18 NOVEMBER 2001  
(PERIOD 8)**

1. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 24 January 2002 (circulated) by the Directors of Finance and of Educational and Social Services on the current budgetary control position and projected out-turn for the year for Educational Services for the period ended 18 November 2001 (Period 8).

**SCOTTISH QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY - EXAMINATION RESULTS 2001**

2. There was submitted a report dated 7 January 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the performance of Secondary Schools in East Ayrshire in the National Qualifications Examinations and which provided benchmarking data from neighbouring authorities nationally.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to support schools in the use of examination analysis as part of their strategies for systematic review and evaluation of performance;
- (ii) to support the use of such data and analysis as a basis for professional discussions within schools, with parents and with the Department; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Councillor McIntyre left the meeting during consideration of the above item.

**ACTION PLAN ON ADULT LITERACY AND NUMERACY (Item 13, Page 2209, 99/02)**

3. There was submitted a report dated 15 January 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the production of the East Ayrshire Action Plan on Adult Literacy and Numeracy and which sought endorsement of the Plan.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to endorse the role of the Council in the Action Plan for literacies in East Ayrshire; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN WHOSE ENTRY TO PRIMARY SCHOOL HAS BEEN DEFERRED (Item 6, Page 2207, 99/02)**

4. There was submitted a report dated 15 January 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval of the guidance for agreeing a further year of pre-school education and deferring entry to Primary School.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to endorse the guidance prepared by Association of Directors of Education, Scotland and CoSLA for use within East Ayrshire; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**CUMNOCK AREA SCHOOLS ENVIRONMENT PROJECT**

5. There was submitted a report dated 8 January 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of a proposed environmental project involving pupils and teachers in schools in the Cumnock and surrounding areas.

Councillor McIntyre rejoined the meeting at this point.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to commend the involvement of schools in the Cumnock area environment project; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**DRUG EDUCATION FOR ANCILLARY STAFF (Item 16, Page 2063, 99/02)**

6. There was submitted a report dated 15 January 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval for a proposal to add to the range of initiatives to tackle the problems of drug misuse.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to endorse the addition of the training outlined in this report to the Council's range of initiatives to tackle the problems of drug misuse;
- (ii) that the problems associated with the misuse of alcohol also be addressed as part of the Council's strategy in tackling problems of drugs misuse;

- (iii) refer the report to the Social Work Committee, for its interest; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**RESERVATION OF PLACES AT CERTAIN PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND  
STEWARTON ACADEMY - AMENDMENT TO PLACING REQUEST  
LEGISLATION (Item 11, Page 1539, 99/02)**

7. There was submitted a report dated 14 January 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the reservation of places for pupils at Stewarton Academy and Fenwick, Ochiltree, Sorn, Loanhead and Annanhill Primary Schools in academic year 2002/2003.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the implications of amendments to placing request legislation in respect of reserved places;
- (ii) that in respect of Stewarton Academy, five places be reserved for S1 for the academic year 2002/2003 in order to accommodate pupils who move into the catchment area for that school;
- (iii) that in respect of Fenwick, Ochiltree, Sorn, Loanhead and Annanhill Primary Schools, two places be assured in P1 for the academic year 2002/2003 in order to accommodate pupils who move into the catchment area for each of these schools;
- (iv) that the Director of Educational and Social Services monitor and review the situation regarding the reservation of places under the amended legislation; and
- (v) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**COMMITMENT TO INCLUSION**

8. There was submitted a report dated 10 January 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which updated the Committee on ongoing developments within inclusive education in East Ayrshire.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to continue development in the integration of support services for young people that promote inclusion;
- (ii) that the Director of Educational and Social Services submit a further report regarding this matter to the next meeting of the Education Committee; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**CITIZENS OF A MULTI-LINGUAL WORLD**

9. There was submitted and noted a report dated 16 January 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the action proposed by East Ayrshire Educational and Social Services in response to the Scottish Executive Education Department document "Citizens of a Multi-Lingual World".

It was also reported and noted that funding amounting to £60,900 had been allocated to the authority for this initiative for this financial year.

### **OUTDOOR EDUCATION IN EAST AYRSHIRE (Item 17, Page 1541, 99/02)**

10. There was submitted a report dated 14 January 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval for the appointment of an additional full-time permanent Outdoor Instructor to the Outdoor Education Service in East Ayrshire.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that a full-time permanent additional Outdoor Education Instructor to the Outdoor Learning Service be appointed;
- (ii) to refer the proposal for appointment to the Corporate Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

### **EDUCATION OF CHILDREN ABSENT FROM SCHOOL THROUGH ILL HEALTH**

11. There was submitted a report dated 15 January 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the guidance on Education of Children absent from school through ill-health issued by the Scottish Executive in December 2001.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the updated procedures on hospital education and home tuition as detailed in the report; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

### **THE CURRICULUM: PLANNING AND FLEXIBILITY**

12. There was submitted a report dated 7 January 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which sought agreement to the terms of an updated curriculum statement for schools.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that "The Structure and Balance of the Curriculum: Guide for Teachers and Managers (5-14 National Guidelines)" and "Curricular Design for the Secondary Stages: Guidelines for Schools" should continue to provide the basis of curriculum planning in East Ayrshire Primary and Secondary Schools;
- (ii) to endorse the criteria of breadth, balance, continuity, coherence and progression as being the fundamental principles on which an effective curriculum can be measured;
- (iii) that the criteria described in paragraphs 4.4 and 4.5 of the report must be fulfilled appropriately if flexibility in the curriculum is to be used either for individuals or groups;
- (iv) that schools can utilise the flexibility provided by the Scottish Qualifications Authority in terms of "age and stage" and alternative qualifications where this better meets pupils' needs or provide suitable progression routes;
- (v) that alternative means of accrediting pupils' experiences can be used where this involves a recognised or authoritative awarding body;

- (vi) to approve the concept of entitlement in modern languages for use in school curricular planning;
- (vii) that all proposals for the use of flexibility must be submitted to the Director of Educational and Social Services for approval;
- (viii) that the Director of Educational and Social Services establish a suitable mechanism for the scrutiny and approval of school based proposals based on the contents of this report; and
- (ix) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

### **DESTINATION OF SCHOOL LEAVERS**

- 13.** There was submitted and noted a report dated 9 January 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which described the recent trends in the destinations of school leavers.

### **RESPONSE TO THE CONSULTATION ON THE CHARTERED TEACHER PROGRAMME PAPER 2**

- 14.** There was submitted and noted a report dated 7 January 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the Department's response to the second phase of the consultation on the Chartered Teacher Programme.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DISCIPLINE TASK GROUP**

- 15.** There was submitted a report dated 21 January 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of an additional allocation of resources by the Scottish Executive in support of the report "Better Behaviour - Better Learning".

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the approach to the promotion of the aims set out in the Discipline Task Group Action Plans detailed in the report;
- (ii) to further support the framework for intervention initiatives; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Councillor L MacLean left the meeting at this point.

### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR SCIENCE**

- 16.** There was submitted a report dated 28 January 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval for the allocation of additional funds to support the development of Science Education in schools.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the distribution of funds as outlined in the report; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

17. The Committee resolved that under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the Press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 6 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

**BUDGETARY PROGRESS REPORT ONSITE SERVICES UNIT TO 18  
NOVEMBER 2001 (PERIOD 8)**

18. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 10 January 2002 (circulated) by the Directors of Finance and of Educational and Social Services on the budgetary control position and the projected out-turn for the year for the Onsite Services Business Unit for the period ended 18 November 2001 (Period 8).

**ONSITE BUSINESS PLAN**

19. There was submitted a report dated 1 February 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval of the Educational and Social Services Onsite Business Plan for 2002/2003.

It was agreed to approve the Business Plan for 2002/2003 for Onsite Services subject to finalisation of the Council's budget for 2002/03.

The meeting terminated at 1147 hours.

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